

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. - 24. (Cancelled)

25. (Currently Amended) Device for producing multilayer, coextruded, tubular preforms made of thermoplastic material, with a coextrusion head (10) with several essentially coaxially arranged flow channels (FK1, FK2), each of which is fed from an individual inlet opening (ZF1, ZF2) with a material melt, which is annularly distributed in a distributor ring (26, 28) and flows along an annular conical frustum, wherein the material melts flow into a common annular flow channel (12) that widens like a funnel, with an annular accumulation chamber (14), in which a displaceable annular piston (16) can reciprocate, and with an annular discharge channel (18) that follows the annular accumulation chamber (14) and has an annular extrusion orifice (20) that can be closed, wherein, as viewed in a longitudinal section through the coextrusion head, the gap width (s1, s5) in the respective distributor ring (26, 28) is greater in the vicinity of the inlet opening (ZF1, ZF2) than the gap width (s2, s6) on the opposite side from the inlet opening (ZF1, ZF2), and that, as viewed in a longitudinal section through the coextrusion head, the gap width (s3, s7) in the respective flow channel (FK1, FK2) is smaller in the vicinity of the inlet opening (ZF1, ZF2) than the gap width (s4, s8) on the opposite side from the inlet opening (ZF1, ZF2), wherein each flow channel (FK1, FK2) opens

into a first cylindrical ring (22, 24), and wherein the cross-sectional area (F34) of the common cylindrical ring (34) is equal to the sum of the cross-sectional areas (F22, F24) of the first cylindrical rings (22, 24).

26. (Currently Amended) Device in accordance with Claim 23 25, wherein the cross-sectional area (F26, F28) of the respective distributor ring (26, 28) is greater than the cross-sectional area (FFK1, FFK2) of the corresponding flow channel (FK1, FK2).

27. (Currently Amended) Device in accordance with Claim 23 25, ~~wherein each flow channel (FK1, FK2) opens into a first cylindrical ring (22, 24), and wherein the cross-sectional area (F22, F24) of the respective cylindrical ring (22, 24) is greater, preferably twice as great, as than~~ the cross-sectional area (FFK1, FFK2) at the end of the corresponding flow channel (FK1, FK2).

28. (Currently Amended) Device in accordance with Claim 25 27, wherein the cross-sectional area (F22, F24) of the respective cylindrical ring (22, 24) is at most twice as great as the mean cross-sectional area (F26, F28) of the corresponding distributor ring (26, 28).

29. (Currently Amended) Device in accordance with Claim 23
25, wherein a region of quieted flow, which is formed as a common cylindrical ring (34), is provided between the mouth (30), at which several material melts come together, and the point of widening (32), at which the combined material melts enter the common flow channel (12), which widens like a funnel.

30. (Cancelled)

31. (Currently Amended) Device in accordance with Claim 28
30, wherein the length of the common cylindrical ring (34) is greater than or equal to twice the sum of the annular gaps (s9, s10) of the corresponding cylindrical rings (22, 24).

32. (Currently Amended) Device in accordance with Claim 23
25, wherein the funnel-shaped, annular common flow channel (12) is bounded by an inner conical frustum surface (36) and an outer conical frustum surface (38), such that, when viewed in a longitudinal section through the coextrusion head (10), a first angle between the vertical and the inner conical frustum surface (36) is smaller than a second angle between the vertical and the outer conical frustum surface (38).

33. (Currently Amended) Device in accordance with Claim 23
25, wherein an annular groove (42) is provided in an outer wall (40) in the vicinity of each flow channel (FK1, FK2), which is

configured as an annular conical frustum, and the annular groove holds a baffle (44), which can be moved into the annular conical frustum to throttle the flow of the material melt.

34. (Currently Amended) Device in accordance with Claim 31 33, wherein the inside diameter of the ~~elastic~~ baffle (44) can be varied by means of an adjusting device.

35. (Currently Amended) Device in accordance with Claim 23 25, wherein each inlet opening (ZF1, ZF2) is connected with a feeding device (50, 52), which is rigidly connected with the coextrusion head (10) and has a feed recess (54, 56), which further conveys the material melt to the inlet opening (ZF1, ZF2) during the stroke of the annular piston (16), and wherein the material melt is supplied to the feeding device (50, 52) through a rigidly connected extruder line.

36. (Currently Amended) Device in accordance with Claim 33 35, wherein the feed recess (54, 56) has a length equal to the stroke of the annular piston (16).

37. (Currently Amended) Device in accordance with Claim 34 36, wherein the feeding device (50, 52) is designed as an annular segment.

38. (Currently Amended) Device in accordance with Claim 33 35, wherein two feeding devices (50, 52) arranged diametrically to each other are provided for two different material melts.

39. (Withdrawn) Device in accordance with Claim 22 25, wherein each inlet opening (ZF1, ZF2) is connected with a feed cylinder (60), which is rigidly mounted on the displaceable annular piston (16) and holds a movable hollow feed piston (62), which is mounted in a stationary way and to which the material melt is supplied by an extruder line (64) that is rigidly connected with it.

40. (Currently Amended) Device for producing multilayer, coextruded, tubular preforms made of thermoplastic material, with a coextrusion head (10) with several essentially coaxially arranged flow channels (FK1, FK2), each of which is fed from an individual inlet opening (ZF1, ZF2) with a material melt, which is annularly distributed in a distributor ring (26, 28) and flows along an annular conical frustum, wherein the material melts flow into a common annular flow channel (12) that widens like a funnel, with an annular accumulation chamber (14), in which a displaceable annular piston (16) can reciprocate, and with an annular discharge channel (18) that follows the annular accumulation chamber (14) and has an annular extrusion orifice (20) that can be closed, wherein the funnel-shaped, annular common flow channel (12) is bounded by an inner conical frustum

surface (36) and an outer conical frustum surface (38), and wherein, when viewed in a longitudinal section through the coextrusion head (10), a first angle between the vertical and the inner conical frustum surface (36) is smaller than a second angle between the vertical and the outer conical frustum surface (38).

41. (Currently Amended) Device in accordance with Claim 38 40, wherein the first angle is about 0°.

42. (Cancelled)

43. (Currently Amended) Device for producing multilayer, coextruded, tubular preforms made of thermoplastic material, with a coextrusion head (10) with several essentially coaxially arranged flow channels (FK1, FK2), each of which is fed from an individual inlet opening (ZF1, ZF2) with a material melt, which is annularly distributed in a distributor ring (26, 28) and flows along an annular conical frustum, wherein the material melts flow into a common annular flow channel (12) that widens like a funnel, with an annular accumulation chamber (14), in which a displaceable annular piston (16) can reciprocate, and with an annular discharge channel (18) that follows the annular accumulation chamber (14) and has an annular extrusion orifice (20) that can be closed, wherein an annular groove (42) is provided in an outer wall (40) in the vicinity of each flow channel (FK1, FK2), which is configured as an annular conical

frustum, and the annular groove holds a baffle (44), which can be moved into the annular conical frustum to throttle the flow of the material melt.

44. (Currently Amended) Device in accordance with Claim 41 45, wherein the inside diameter of the ~~elastic~~ baffle (44) can be varied by means of an adjusting device.

45. (Currently Amended) Device for producing multilayer, coextruded, tubular preforms made of thermoplastic material, with a coextrusion head (10) with several essentially coaxially arranged flow channels (FK1, FK2), each of which is fed from an individual inlet opening (ZF1, ZF2) with a material melt, which is annularly distributed in a distributor ring (26, 28) and flows along an annular conical frustum, wherein the material melts flow into a common annular flow channel (12) that widens like a funnel, with an annular accumulation chamber (14), in which a displaceable annular piston (16) can reciprocate, and with an annular discharge channel (18) that follows the annular accumulation chamber (14) and has an annular extrusion orifice (20) that can be closed, wherein each inlet opening (ZF1, ZF2) is connected with a feeding device (50, 52), which is rigidly connected with the coextrusion head (10) and has a feed recess (54, 56), which further conveys the material melt to the inlet opening (ZF1, ZF2) during the stroke of the annular piston (16), and wherein the material melt is supplied to the feeding device

(50, 52) through a rigidly connected extruder line.

46. (Currently Amended) Device in accordance with Claim 43 45, wherein the feed recess (54, 56) has a length equal to the stroke of the annular piston (16).

47. (Currently Amended) Device in accordance with Claim 44 46, wherein the feeding device (50, 52) is designed as an annular segment.

48. (Currently Amended) Device in accordance with Claim 43 45, wherein two feeding devices (50, 52) arranged diametrically to each other are provided for two different material melts.

49. (Withdrawn) Device in accordance with Claim 43 45, wherein each inlet opening (ZF1, ZF2) is connected with a feed cylinder (60), which is rigidly mounted on the displaceable annular piston (16) and holds a movable hollow feed piston (62), which is mounted in a stationary way and to which the material melt is supplied by an extruder line (64) that is rigidly connected with it.